Agenda Date: 11/6/02 Agenda Item: 4A



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF FILING BY VERIZON)	ORDER OF APPROVAL
NEW JERSEY INC. FOR A REVISION OF)	
TARIFF B.P.UNO.2, AS LISTED IN THE	
REVISION OF THE CRANBURY AND)	
MONMOUTH JUNCTION EXCHANGE)	
ARFA BOUNDARY	DOCKET NO TT02090668

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

Verizon New Jersey Inc. (VNJ) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board) on September 19, 2002, pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:1-5.11, providing for the revision of the Cranbury and Monmouth Junction exchange area boundary.

According to VNJ, a residential development known as "The Meadows at South Brunswick" is planned to be constructed in South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County, beginning in early 2003. As the exchange area boundary is currently located, this development will have residential units on both sides of the boundary and would thus be served by different exchanges. The development includes 194 residential housing units. One hundred twenty (120) units are in the Monmouth Junction exchange area, 68 units are in the Cranbury exchange area and 6 units straddle the exchange area boundary.

According to VNJ, in order to provide service from the same exchange to the entire development, and because it is more economical to provide service from the Monmouth Junction exchange, VNJ has proposed moving the boundary line so that the entire development would be in the Monmouth Junction exchange area located in the North Jersey LATA. As this is a proposed modification to a LATA boundary, both the Board and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must approve the change. VNJ asserts in its petition that it will file a request with the FCC for approval of this boundary change upon receipt of the Board's Order approving it, and that it will not implement the boundary change until approval is received from the FCC.

In its petition and in supplementary information provided to Staff, VNJ asserts the following:

- 1. the cost to provide service to "The Meadows at South Brunswick" development entirely from the Monmouth Junction exchange is approximately \$52,700 less than the cost to provide service to the development from both the Cranbury and Monmouth Junction exchanges and \$72,300 less than the cost to provide service to the development entirely from the Cranbury exchange;
- 2. no existing customer's service will be affected by the proposed changes;
- as both the Cranbury and Monmouth Junction exchanges are in Rate Group B, residents of the development will pay the same basic rate under this proposal that they would if they were served by the Cranbury exchange;
- 4. no customer will be disadvantaged by this proposed change, as there is existing inter LATA local calling between the Cranbury and Monmouth Junction exchange areas which was permitted by the Federal Court overseeing Divestiture;
- 5. as the Cranbury and Monmouth Junction exchanges are each in the other's local calling area, all emergency services, schools and municipal services will continue to be within the local calling area if the boundary is moved as proposed; and
- 6. customer confusion will be eliminated by serving all units in "The Meadows at South Brunswick" development from the same exchange area.

On October 17, 2002, New Jersey Division of Ratepayer Advocate (Ratepayer Advocate) filed its comments in the above-mentioned docketed matter. According to the Ratepayer Advocate, it does not oppose the petition.

Based on the record in this matter, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that calls and rates to emergency services, schools and municipal services will not be affected in any way by this boundary change. In addition, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that no present customer will be adversely affected by the boundary change and VNJ's cost of serving "The Meadows at South Brunswick" will decrease. Accordingly, after a thorough review of the record, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that this boundary change will have no effect on safe, adequate and proper service, is in the public interest and in accordance with law.

Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY APPROVES</u> the boundary change as requested.

DATED: 11/7/02

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

(signed)
JEANNE M. FOX
PRESIDENT

(signed)
FREDERICK F. BUTLER
COMMISSIONER

(signed) CAROL J. MURPHY COMMISSIONER

(signed)
CONNIE O. HUGHES
COMMISSIONER

(signed)
JACK ALTER
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

(signed) KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY